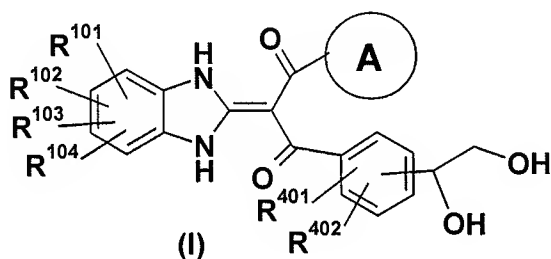


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by the formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



symbols in the formula mean as follows,

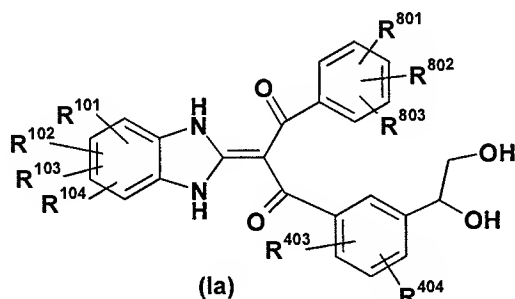
ring A: benzene which may be substituted with 1 to 3 substituent groups, wherein the substituent group is halogen, CN, lower alkyl which may be substituted with halogen, -O-lower alkyl, -CO-O- lower alkyl or amino,

R^{401} and R^{402} : may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, OH, -O-lower alkyl, or lower alkyl,

R^{101} , R^{102} , R^{103} and R^{104} : may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with aryl or heteroaryl.

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by the formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^{801} , R^{802} and R^{803} : may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

R^{403} and R^{404} : may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

R^{101} , R^{102} , R^{103} and R^{104} : may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with aryl or heteroaryl.

5. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-butyl-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-

difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[5-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(2,3,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(3-methylphenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-fluorophenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; and 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione.

6.-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring A is benzene which may be substituted

with 1 to 3 substituent groups, wherein the substituent groups may be the same or different from each other and each is halogen or lower alkyl.

13. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 12, wherein R^{401} and R^{402} may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, or lower alkyl.

14. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 13, wherein R^{101} , R^{102} , R^{103} and R^{104} are each H.

15. (previously presented): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, wherein R^{101} , R^{102} , R^{103} and R^{104} are each H.

16. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (new): 1-{2-butyl-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (new): 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[5-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. (new): 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(2,3,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(3-methylphenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

23. (new): 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (new): 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (new): 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

27. (new): 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

28. (new): 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-fluorophenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (new): 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.